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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AM: DB10130-0019

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01	ADS-00	AID-07	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-15	CIAE-00
ES-08	ICA-11	DODE-00	H-01	IO-14	NSC-05	NSAE-00
COHE-00	HA-06	TRE-00	PH-09	PA-01	QMR-01	AGRE-00
RP-10	SP-02	SR-04	SPRS-02	/130		

001456 191349Z /01

P 191134Z MAR 81
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3703
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL KARACHI
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 03634

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12065: GDS 3/19/87 (RATTRAY, ALEXANDER) OR-E
TAGS: SREF, PK, AF
SUBJECT: (U) AFGHANISTAN REFUGEE RELIEF

REF: (A) STATE 064534 (NOTAL (B) STATE 064833 (NOTAL)

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON MARCH 16 ENROFFS CALLED UPON

TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REF A.
SIMILAR CALL WAS MADE ON MARCH 17 UPON
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EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR USG EFFORTS TO PROVIDE AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF AID AND REGISTERED CONCERN ABOUT PERCEPTIBLE DECLINE IN INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN PLIGHT OF PAKISTAN'S GROWING POPULATION OF AFGHAN REFUGEES.

3. _____ STATED THAT GOP FACED MOUNTING DIFFICULTIES IN FEEDING THE REFUGEES. GOP HAD DISTRIBUTED GRAIN TO THE AFGHANS FROM ITS NATIONAL RESERVES ON BASIS OF INTERNATIONAL PLEDGES OF FUTURE GRAIN DELIVERIES, HOWEVER, SIX-MONTH GOP EXISTED BETWEEN DISTRIBUTION OF PAKISTANI WHEAT AND ARRIVAL OF FOREIGN WHEAT DONATIONS AT P.O.E. KARACHI. SADAR CLAIMED GOP HAD DISTRIBUTED SOME 40,000 MT OF GRAIN FROM ITS OWN SUPPLIES AND WOULD HAVE TO DISBURSE ANOTHER 89,000 MT BEFORE FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF NEWLY-PLEDGED WFF WHEAT WAS OFF-LOADED IN PAKISTAN. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY WHEAT DELIVERIES AS STATES AND FRONTIER REGIONS MINISTRY DID NOT HAVE MONEY TO BUY AND TRANSPORT ADDITIONAL WHEAT SUPPLIES FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOODS. GIVEN GREATER THAN EXPECTED REFUGEE POPULATION, PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED GOP CONCERNS ABOUT THE OVERLOADING OF PAKISTANI GRAIN-UNLOADING AND STORAGE FACILITIES WERE NOT APPLICABLE.

4. _____ NOTED THAT HE WAS LEAVING FOR GENEVA TO SIGN INTERIM UNHCR BUDGET FOR 1981. HE EMPHASIZED THAT UNHCR BUDGET, U.S. \$1 MILLION DOLS, WOULD BE INADEQUATE TO REFUGEE NEEDS SINCE IT HAD BEEN BASED ON A REFUGEE POPULATION OF 1.1 MILLION AND REGISTERED REFUGEES HAD ALREADY PASSED 1.7 MILLION MARK. GOP WAS FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO MEET THE SOARING REFUGEE PROGRAM COSTS. TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES ALONE HAD DOUBLED IN THE PAST YEAR AND GOP WAS SHORT OF HEAVY TRUCKS. NLA HAD
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ESTIMATED THAT 300 MILLION DOLS WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR A POPULATION OF 1.8 MILLION REFUGEES AND HAD ASKED UNHCR TO INCREASE ITS FUNDING TO 160 MILLION DOLS. GOP WOULD ALSO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF JUNE AID-TO-PAKISTAN CONSORTIUM MEETING TO SOLICIT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT. PAKISTAN HAD BORNE BULK OF REFUGEE RELIEF COSTS IN 1980 AND COULD NOT ASSUME BURDEN OF SUPPORTING 1.7 MILLION OR MORE AFGHANS IN 1981 WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL EXTERNAL SUPPORT.

5. _____ SAID GOP DID NOT HAVE RELIABLE DATA OF

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AID CHANNELED TO THE AFGHAN REFUGEES BY GULF AND OTHER ARAB STATES. ARAB ENVISSARIES WERE ACTIVE AMONG THE VARIOUS REFUGEE ORGANIZATIONS AND WERE THOUGHT TO BE DISTRIBUTING FUNDS TO LARGE NUMBER OF AFGHAN MUJAHIDEEN. [] PROMISED TO PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH INFORMATION ON OFFICIAL OPEC GULF STATE REFUGEE RELIEF ASSISTANCE AND OBSERVED THAT GOP HAD STEPPED UP ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INCREASED SUPPORT FROM ARAB NATIONS.

6. [] ASSERTED THAT THE REFUGEE FLOW SHOWED NO SIGNS OF DIMINISHING. IMPROVING WEATHER CONDITIONS WOULD SEE INCREASED SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAINST THE AFGHAN POPULATION. [] COMMENTED THAT THE GOP BELIEVED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE DELIBERATELY INTERFERING WITH THE PLANTING OF NEW CROPS IN AFGHANISTAN IN ORDER TO INCREASE DEPENDENCE OF AFGHAN POPULATION ON SOVIET-CONTROLLED URBAN AREAS AND PUSH LARGE NUMBERS OF AFGHANS INTO PAKISTAN. USSR HOPED TO FORCE GOP INTO SEEKING A "POLITICAL SOLUTION" TO AFGHAN PROBLEM. AFGHANISTAN'S PRE-INVASION GRAIN DEFICIT WAS APPROXIMATELY 100,000 MT ANNUALLY. [] DEFICIT THIS YEAR COULD RUN AS HIGH AS ONE MILLION MT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 03634

ROME FOR FODAG

7.) [] ENBOFFS WERE INFORMED []
THAT GOP HAD RECENTLY BECOME MORE AGGRESSIVE
IN SOLICITING INTERNATIONAL AID FOR THE REFUGEE RELIEF
EFFORT. THE STRAIN ON PAKISTAN'S RESOURCES WAS BECOMING
HARD TO BEAR AND INTERNATIONAL DONORS WERE BEING
STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO
AFGHAN RELIEF EFFORT. [] ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT
RAISING FUNDS HAD BECOME MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ESPECIALLY AT THE UN, WAS LOSING
INTEREST IN THE AFGHANISTAN QUESTION. HE, TOO, COMMENTED
THAT THE SOVIETS USED STARVATION TACTICS TO FORCE
GREATER NUMBERS OF REFUGEES INTO PAKISTAN. IN ADDITION,
THE MAJAHIDEEN HAVE BEEN ATTACKING AFGHAN FARMERS
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SUSPECTED OF BEING LOYAL TO THE DRA REGIME.

8. AMBASSADOR URGED GOP TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN SOLICITING
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EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES AT MEETING
ON MARCH 10.

INDICATED THAT GOP HAD CIRCULARIZED AN AIDE MEMOIRE
TO THE EC AMBASSADORS IN ISLAMABAD, LAST MONTH REPORTING
ON THE CURRENT AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF SITUATION
AND REQUESTING ADDITIONAL HELP FROM THEM. AIDE MEMOIRE,
HIGHLIGHTED PAKISTAN'S OWN CONTRIBUTIONS, NOTING THAT
WHILE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE AND
HELPFUL, SLIGHTLY MORE THAN HALF THE COST OF THE
MORE THAN 1.6 MILLION REFUGEES ON PAKISTAN SOIL AT THE
PRESENT TIME WAS BEING BORNE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
PAKISTAN. HUMMEL

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